

## **SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND NC TRACS TRANSLATIONAL TEAM SCIENCE AWARDS 2019-20 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

### **I. Summary of Award**

The School of Medicine's Strategic Plan includes an annual award jointly administered by the Office of Research and NC TraCS—the Translational Team Science Award (TTSA). This award is aimed at capitalizing on the “culture of collaboration” at UNC Chapel Hill to foster new synergistic interdisciplinary teams of basic science and clinical investigators. “Translational” is defined broadly and is not restricted to human subjects and tissues. Proposals may include research using cellular and animal model systems; however, the project should clearly translate across basic and clinical disciplines. *Due to the current vaping epidemic and reports on vaping related illnesses and deaths, vaping research proposals will be considered as high-priority.*

The TTSA project period is for up to a total of two years with a maximum award of \$125,000. Interested teams that fit the eligibility criteria below should submit an initial Concept paper and selected teams will be invited to submit a full proposal for review. If awarded, the TTSA will provide an initial 12-month period (Phase I, up to \$50,000) to begin to fully engage team members in the project. Continued funding in Phase II (12 months, up to \$75,000) will be competitively reviewed and is contingent on the merit of the proposed plan and progress in the prior period relative to the stated milestones. Phase II will consist of additional distinct aims that are necessary to get the project to the point where it is competitive for external funding.

The intent of these awards is to provide the planning time and initial funds for support of early stage de novo research teams that would otherwise not be possible. TTSA supported research should lead to submission of novel interdisciplinary program project grants and R01s by UNC SOM investigators. This call is meant to capture the broad interdisciplinary expertise of SOM faculty and is not restricted to any programmatic area; however, projects that are responsive to NIH programmatic areas of interest (for example BRAIN, Precision Medicine, etc.) are encouraged to apply.

Since the inaugural cycle of the TTSA in October 2013, 28 teams have been selected for funding. A summary of these awards can be found on the Office of Research website- <https://www.med.unc.edu/oor/ttsa-teams-and-projects/>.

### **II. Award Administration**

TTSA awards will be made jointly with funding from the SOM Dean's office and NC TraCS pilot funds. To receive TTSA funding, the two lead PIs must have primary appointments in the SOM.

Review of applications (Phase I and Phase II) will be provided by the NC TraCS review panel with equal consideration for proposals across the translational spectrum.

### **III. Eligibility**

- TTSA grants will support the development of **new** research teams. Project Teams should include at a minimum two PIs: one basic and one clinical. To qualify as a **new team**, the two PIs should not have previously submitted a successful grant proposal.

- Teams should consist of at least 1 basic and 1 clinical faculty member, and the **team leaders must hold a primary appointment in the School of Medicine**. Cross departmental teams are prioritized. Teams may include collaborators from outside institutions, but no indirect funds are available for external collaborations. If research is performed outside the US, no more than 50% of the funding can be expended outside the US or to support research on samples obtained outside the US.
- The proposal should represent a new avenue of research for the investigators. This is a **key criteria** for review. There must be no prior internal or external funding for the project or funding overlap. This award is not intended as supplementary or bridge funding. This will be an element of review at both the Phase I and Phase II stage.
- Anyone may submit at the Concept Paper stage. If you need assistance identifying additional basic or clinical collaborators, please contact the Office of Research or the [TraCS Research Navigator](#) service for help (choose “Proposal Development” from the list).
- Review of the Concept Papers will result in the selection of teams eligible to submit a full proposal.

#### IV. Application Process

1. Submit a 2-page **Concept Paper** describing the proposed research. The Concept paper should include:
  - Title Page and Team Description (1 page)
    - Include names and affiliations of the clinical and basic PIs as well as other key players. The basic and clinical PI(s) must be clearly identified.
    - Definition of how this is a ‘new’ team, and why a new team is needed for this project.
  - Hypothesis, specific aims, and overall goals for the project (Phase I and Phase II). Include the scientific and translational impact. (1 page)
  - Current NIH biosketch for each PI and key team member; *must indicate all internal pilot funding including pending proposals.*
2. Upon review of the Concept papers, teams will be selected to submit a full proposal. The Phase I grant awards up to \$50,000 for a 12-month period. These funds can be used to obtain whatever data/approvals are needed for proof of concept and can be used to support trainees and/or for reagents and other costs. Salary support for faculty is **not** an allowable cost.
3. Resubmissions of Concepts or Phase I proposals are not permitted unless substantially different than the previous submission or by invitation.
4. At the end of Phase I, the team must submit a final progress report and may submit a proposal for an additional year of Phase II funding (up to \$75,000 for one year). Phase II proposals are competitively reviewed and an award is contingent on successful completion of Phase I milestones and a clear path for future funding.
5. Teams that received a Phase I Grant are not required to submit a proposal for Phase II funding, but they must submit a final report. Investigators who do not submit a final report will be ineligible for future funding from this award mechanism.
6. Phase I and Phase II Application Components
  - Title Page (include project title and names, titles and affiliations of each team member)
  - Abstract (250 word max)
  - Research Plan (5 pages max; 1.5 line spacing, font Arial 11 pt., and 1-inch margins)
    - Brief Description of Research Team

- Specific Aims
- Significance, Innovation, and Translational Impact
- Approach
- Statistical Analysis and Justification. [Consultation with a TraCS biostatistician](#) is highly encouraged.
- Timeline, milestones and goals for future funding. *For a phase I proposal, the initial phase I milestones and timeline must be clearly stated and feasible. Projected Phase II goals and timeline should also be described in the Phase I application.*
- References (no page limit)
- Detailed Budget and Justification (\$50,000 max for Phase I, \$75,000 for Phase II)
  - Please use [PHS 398 form page 4](#) for detailed budget.
  - Funds may be allocated to support research staff, supplies, core facility fees, travel directly related to project goals (ie data collection), and small equipment. Salary support for faculty is not an allowable cost. Salary support for research staff, trainees, and technicians are permissible. Funds will support direct costs only.
- Human and Animal Subjects (no page limit)
  - Although Institutional Review Board (IRB) and/or Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee (IACUC) approval is not required at time of submission, the application should briefly describe any human and/or animal subject issues. If human subjects will be involved in the research, provide a description of their involvement and characteristics, study procedures, materials used in the research, potential risks to subjects, the process for recruitment and informed consent, and protection against risks. Provide assurance that the project will be reviewed and approved by an IRB, use a single IRB if the project is multicenter, and comply with HIPAA. If vertebrate animals will be used, provide a description of the proposed use of the animals in the work outlined and procedures for ensuring that discomfort, distress, pain and injury will be limited. Provide assurance that the project will be reviewed and approved by an IACUC. Note that no funds will be released without the requisite approvals in place. (No page limit)
- NIH Biosketches for Key Personnel
  - Include current and pending support and internal as well as external funding sources
- For Phase II only—Progress Report from Phase I Feasibility grant activities

## V. Application/Grant Timeline

- TTSA Concept papers due: Friday, January 3, 2020
- Concept paper award notification on or before: February 1, 2020
- TTSA Phase I Feasibility Proposals due: Tuesday, March 24, 2020
- TTSA Phase I Feasibility Award start date: June 2020

**All submissions should be emailed to:** [oor\\_submissions@med.unc.edu](mailto:oor_submissions@med.unc.edu)

If you have questions, please contact email the Office of Research at the email address above or call Jennifer Brennan at 966-8089.